

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 01777 091159Z

41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1479

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS OSLO 1777

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NO, AO, CU

SUBJ: NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT VOTES TO COMPLETE CUBA AID PROJECT

REFS: (A) OSLO 1036, (B) OSLO A-44, (C) OSLO A-28

1. BY A VOTE OF 65 TO 56 THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT (STORTING)
REJECTED A NON-SOCIALIST PARTY PROPOSAL TO STOP
DEVELOPMENT AID TO CUBA AT THE END OF 1978 BECAUSE
OF CUBA'S MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA. AT THE SAME
TIME THE STORTING MADE IT CLEAR THAT NORWAY WILL NOT
FURNISH ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT AID TO CUBA WHEN THE
CURRENT HARBOR PROJECT THERE ENDS IN 1978. IT ALSO
SAID THE CUBAN AID ISSUE CAN BE REVIEWED AGAIN
DURING THE 1977 PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET CONSIDERATION.

2. FOLLOWING ONE OF THE MOST HEATED DEBATES IN MONTHS
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PAGE 02 OSLO 01777 091159Z

THE NON-SOCIALIST PROPOSAL WAS REJECTED BY THE LABOR,

SOCIALIST LEFT (SV) AND LIBERAL PARTY VOTES. HOWEVER, CUBA'S INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA WAS CONDEMNED BY ALL PARTIES EXCEPT THE SV, WHOSE MEMBERS ARGUED THAT CUBA HAD COME TO THE SUPPORT OF ANGOLA AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN INVASION.

3. IN DEFENDING LABOR'S OPPOSITION TO THE AID CUT THIS YEAR, PRIME MINISTER NORDLI AND FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND UNDERSCORED THE NEED FOR NORWAY TO FULFILL ITS AID AGREEMENT FOR THE HAVANA HARBOR PROJECT. NORDLI STATED IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO SHOW NORWAY LIVED UP TO ITS AGREEMENTS. OTHER LABORITES ARGUED ADDITIONALLY THAT CUTTING CUBAN AID MIGHT BE SEEN AS NORWEGIAN SUPPORT OF SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE MINORITY REGIMES. THE NON-SOCIALIST CONTENDED THAT CUBA'S OUTRAGIOUS ACTION IN ANGOLA WARRANTED CEASING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. THEY STRESSED THAT THE NORWEGIAN TAX-PAYER COULD NOT ACCEPT PROVIDING DEVELOPMENT AID TO COUNTRIES WHICH FIND IT MORALLY AND ECONOMICALLY JUSTIFIABLE TO SEND TROOPS TO ANOTHER CONTINENT TO TAKE PART IN CIVIL WARS.

4. SV ACCUSED THE NON-SOCIALIST OF HYPOCRACY IN PROPOSING TO CUT CUBAN AID WHILE SUPPORTING INDONESIAN AID. THE STORTING APPROVED THE SAME DAY 99 TO 12 AN AGREEMENT WITH INDONESIA WITHIN WHICH NORWAY WILL BUILD SHIPS FOR AN INDONESIAN COASTAL FLEET.
BYRNE

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